

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1. (Original) An apparatus for delivering electrical energy to tissue within a patient, comprising:

a tubular member comprising a proximal end, a distal end having a size for insertion into a body of a patient, and a lumen extending from the distal end towards the proximal end; and

a needle comprising a distal portion extending at least partially from the lumen and terminating in a tissue-piercing distal tip, the distal portion comprising an electrically conductive and porous material, thereby providing an electrode through which electrolytic fluid may flow for delivering electrical energy to tissue surrounding the distal portion.

2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the distal portion comprises sintered stainless steel.

3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the needle comprises a needle lumen extending from a proximal end of the needle to the distal portion.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, further comprising a source of electrolytic fluid coupled to the needle lumen for delivering electrolytic fluid to the distal portion of the needle.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the entire needle comprises porous material.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the needle is movable relative to the tubular member for at least one of retracting the distal portion into the tubular member and deploying the distal portion from the tubular member.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the tubular member comprises an electrically insulating sleeve.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of needles extendable from the lumen beyond the distal end of the tubular member, each needle comprising a distal tip for penetrating tissue.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein each of the plurality of needles comprises a distal portion comprising an electrically conductive and porous material, thereby providing an array of porous electrodes through which electrolytic fluid may flow for delivering electrical energy to tissue adjacent the distal portions of the array of electrodes.

10. (Original) An apparatus for delivering electrical energy to tissue within a patient, comprising:

a tubular member comprising a proximal end, a distal end having a size for insertion into a body of a patient, and a lumen extending from the distal end towards the proximal end of the tubular member; and

an array of needles extendable from the lumen beyond the distal end of the tubular member, each needle comprising a distal tip for penetrating tissue, at least one needle comprising a distal portion comprising an electrically conductive and porous material, thereby providing a porous electrode through which electrolytic fluid may flow for delivering electrical energy to tissue adjacent the distal portion.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, wherein the needles are movable from a retracted configuration within the lumen to an extended configuration wherein distal portions of the needles extend beyond the distal end of the tubular member.

12. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a plurality of the needles have distal tips that extend different axial and radial distances from one another in the extended configuration.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein a distal portion of a plurality of the needles comprises an electrically conductive and porous material defining an electrode.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a source of conductive fluid connected to the infusion lumen of each needle comprising an infusion lumen.

15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a hub proximal to the distal end of the tubular member, the hub comprising a port connected to the source of conductive fluid, the hub communicating with each infusion lumen for delivering conductive fluid from the source of conductive fluid to each porous electrode.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising a float valve connected to the source of conductive fluid for removing gases from conductive fluid being delivered from the source of conductive fluid to each porous electrode.

17-25. (Cancelled).